

Fred Clark, Director, USDA Office of Tribal Relations
Cal Joyner, Regional Forester, Southwest Region 3
Thomas Tidwell, Chief, US Forest Service
Tom Vilsack, Secretary of Agriculture

100-3
August 13, 2013

Dear Sir,

Please do read this letter and complaint to you, about your persistently errant subordinate, Mr. Mike Williams, supervisor of the Kaibab National Forest. The Kaibab Forest surrounds Grand Canyon National Park, a U.N. World Heritage Site. The Grand Canyon is also the number one destination for European tourists in the United States.

We are a small grassroots organization of concerned citizens. We are respectfully asking for Mr. Williams to resign if he is unwilling to abide by the law and common human decency.

As you probably know, on Tuesday, August 20th at 9:30 AM, the US Forest Service is being sued in Federal District Court in Phoenix by the Havasupai Tribe, the Grand Canyon Trust, the Sierra Club, and the Center for Biological Diversity. Not only is this wasting taxpayers money at a critical time in history, Mr. Williams is standing in the way of world opinion. Thank you for your attention. If you can make the time we will appreciate a reply. Here is a copy of the letter we wrote to Mike Williams and a copy of the international petition that we collected in a couple of days at the Grand Canyon, though with a few weeks' time it would have easily included many thousands, instead of 500, signatures.

Sincerely,

Catherine A. Euler, Ph.D.

Jan Merich

Ilse Washington

For the Mama Bears Brigade (Facebook: *MamaBears.AgainstNukes*)
12150 W. Calle Seneca
Tucson, AZ 85743

NO URANIUM MINING!

NO NUCLEAR POWER!

SAVE THE GRAND CANYON

AND THE COLORADO RIVER!

SUPPORT THE HAVASUPAI TRIBE!

Protect Sacred Sites!

PEACEFUL

PUBLIC

PROTEST

PHOENIX AUG 20 7AM

judge campbell's FEDERAL COURT 800 WASHINGTON



Uranium mining has now actively begun at the Canyon Uranium Mine just south of Grand Canyon National Park's South Rim. Radioactive and toxic uranium ore from New Mexico, Cameron and the Orphan Mine at the Grand Canyon National Park has already started to poison indigenous aquifers and the Colorado River, source of Phoenix, San Diego and Los Angeles drinking water. EPA SAYS IT WILL TAKE BILLIONS TO CLEAN UP THE OLD MESS BUT NOW THEY WANT TO MAKE NEW MESS! These substances cause cancers and DNA mutations! Multi-billion dollar Canadian Company Energy Fuels has recently started hauling ore from two NEWLY OPENED uranium mines on the North Rim of the Grand Canyon, a place sacred to many AZ tribes, a UN World Heritage Site and a significant source of AZ tourist income. Uranium is used to fuel nuclear power plants, like the one that exploded in 2011 in Fukushima, Japan, which continues to pour increasing levels of hundreds of radioactive contaminants into both Japanese groundwater and the Pacific Ocean, altering living genomes forever. The Grand Canyon Uranium Mine is located just off the main highway to the South Rim, on Havasupai Traditional Cultural property, near Red Butte, a sacred area that has been used for ceremonial and living purposes by indigenous peoples for thousands of years. Never idle, the Havasupai Tribe has been fighting the mine for over 30 years, and Aug 20 is their next day in court! The Tribe, the Sierra Club, the Grand Canyon Trust, and the Center for Biological Diversity are seeking a preliminary injunction to stop the mine against the US Government and the Kaibab National Forest because Supervisor Mike Williams broke several federal laws in approving the mine under a blatantly scientifically inadequate 27-year-old Environmental Impact Statement, failing to consult with indigenous peoples who hold the area sacred, and failing to protect the aquifer. New science proves low-level radiation causes greater health harm than ever known before. We invite you to please come and join us on the Steps of the Courthouse in a peaceful demonstration of our God-given Right to protect ourselves, our children, and all future generations to come from the massive permanent poisoning of the animals, plants and people of the sacred lands of the Four Corners Region.



The Mama Bears Brigade is a grassroots feminist collective. We believe all life should be protected from random licensed murder by nuclear corporations. Action is the antidote to despair.

Meet on the steps between 7AM and 9:30AM. Those who wish to attend court starting at 9.30 am may go up or stay outside.

For More info: Everyone can go to [FACEBOOK.COM](https://www.facebook.com/mamabears.againstnukes) and search mamabears.againstnukes EVENTS or like Mamabears Official Facebook Page

Mike Williams
Supervisor, Kaibab National Forest
800 South 6th St.
Williams, AZ 86046

August 13, 2013

cc:

Fred Clark, Director, USDA Office of Tribal Relations
Cal Joyner, Regional Forester, Southwest Region 3
Thomas Tidwell, Chief, US Forest Service
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Dear Mr Williams,

You will shortly be in federal court trying to defend your indefensible, illegal and immoral actions with regard to the Canyon Uranium Mine near Red Butte, located in a Traditional Cultural Property area four miles from the Grand Canyon National Park. Using a 27-year-old Environmental Impact Statement to approve this project is unacceptable to everyone to hears about it; it shows a deep disregard for evidence-based decision-making; it shows complete contempt for public safety.

We have studied the effects of chronic exposure to low level radiation for 20 years. In the last five years there has been a tremendous amount of new science which concludes that this and other uranium mines run by the Canadian-owned company Energy Fuels will permanently contaminate the giant Muave aquifer and thus all of the Grand Canyon's springs as well as the Colorado River, which is a main source of drinking water for millions of human beings in the Southwestern US.

Also, Energy Fuels, after extracting uranium for a mere five years now plans to "clean up" the Canyon Mine site using "modern" techniques – they plan to dump all the radioactive ore waste back into the 1600-foot shaft. We now know that one of the main aquifers is at 1700 feet, and new seismological science shows that the fault lines in the region mean this perched aquifer, as well as the Muave, will inevitably be contaminated. We have enclosed a petition we recently gathered in a couple of days signed by 500 people worldwide who don't want this uranium mine at the Grand Canyon, either. Congress made its wishes clear in trying to protect the Grand Canyon Withdrawal Area from uranium mining – yet all these old claims are within this withdrawal area. We believe you broke the spirit of the law when you approved the Canyon Mine without a new Environmental Impact Statement despite the prior signatures of 300,000 people who opposed uranium mining around the Grand Canyon. Corporate interests should not outweigh democratic processes.

You have also given your ill-considered approval to Arizona's slow Fukushima. There is a tremendous amount of new peer-reviewed science showing that low level radioactive natural uranium ore in water, air and soils is hundreds of times more dangerous than previously promulgated by the ICRP/NRC/EPA/etc. (European Committee on Radiation Risk, 2010). All these claims will chemically and radioactively contaminate the water for billions of years into the future, since the half-life of natural uranium is 4.5 billion years. [The Grand Canyon itself is only 5 million years old.] The dangers of old radioactive uranium waste on the Navajo Reservation have been made clear by recent epidemiology, and the EPA recently closed several wells and springs due to uranium poisoning. These plumes move underground over centuries, and these contaminants will flow into the Little Colorado and thus the Colorado for eons to come, as will the radiation from the old Orphan

uranium Mine, within the National Park. These chronic, cumulative low doses have now been proven to be as or more cancer-producing and mutagenic than one-off high acute radiation doses (Bayea, 2012, *Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists*). Don't let Canyon Mine make this situation worse. All this new science trumps the ancient 1872 Mining Act, which was passed before uranium and its waste products were known to be major health hazards.

Your actions have also made a mockery of all the recent USDA efforts to improve tribal relations. As you should know, that the Havasupai Tribe has been fighting this mine for 30 years – yet you totally failed to conduct any meaningful consultation with this or other interested tribes prior to giving your approval for this “zombie” mine.

We strongly urge you to stop putting your interests above the safety and interests of many cultures and people of the world in this expensive and unnecessary court case. Order a new Environmental Impact Statement, as you should have done in the beginning. Respect others' religious freedoms and consult with all the tribes who believe this place to be part of their creation story, a holy and ceremonial place. Don't make taxpayers pay any more for your poor decision-making. If you cannot bring yourself to do what's right, then we respectfully request your immediate resignation from your post.

Sincerely,

Catherine A. Ziler, PhD
Joe Washington
Joe Merich

For the Mama Bears Brigade [Facebook: MamaBears.AgainstNukes]

12150 W. Calle Seneca
Tucson, AZ 85743